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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

NIC 825-83
31 January 1983

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: The NFIB Representatives

FROM: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: Postponement of SNIE

1. I have elected to postpone the SNIE on Syria-USSR: Expanding Relations, which appears on the production plan for the first quarter of 1983. The fast track SNIE on Soviet Policy in the Middle East and South Asia under Andropov scheduled for NFIB consideration on 31 January has dealt with the most pressing and time-sensitive issues of the Syrian-Soviet relationship -- that is, Soviet and Syrian motivations for upgrading significantly Syrian air defense and communications as well as likely Israeli reactions.

2. The broader issues of Syrian-Soviet relations (including, particularly, the political aspects, including regional ramifications) still are an important subject for a Community estimate, but I have decided to postpone work on that paper until the second quarter of 1983. By that time, the Community will have had a chance to evaluate the near-term consequences of Soviet activities in Syria and will be able to take a longer view of the trends in the relationship, and the implications for the United States.

Henry S. Rowen
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